

Globalisation boost rapid growth, economic and financial flows, while at the same time propagating universal values and developing closer societies, with multiplied opportunities for economic and social benefits to all of the world's countries. On the other hand, in the absence of adequate policies, globalisation may generate negative effects, some real challenges against the states of the new world, including global warming, pollution, threats to biodiversity, desertification, inequities in the distribution of globalisation's benefits between rich and poor countries as well as the deepening of gaps, the erasure of specific cultural traits, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cross-border crime and terrorism.

Accepting that these aspects exist, the world community has recognised that one of the major issues of the current times relates to finding out ways in which the positive effects of globalisation might be maximised and reflected on all countries and peoples and the potentially negative effects might be cancelled or reduced to a minimum. Only under such circumstances will the accepted general ideal of sustainable development be reached, so that the right of all the planet's citizens to wellbeing, freedom and peace might be secured.

The official recognition of these concerns as well as of the willing of all the countries to work in concert is embodied in the Millennium Declaration approved by the Millennium Summit held in September 2000 at the New York headquarters of the United Nations. This document reads the reaffirmed pledge of all the UN member states to act to secure sustainable development , eradicate poverty at a global level as well as to ensure peace, security and disarmament, environmental protection, good governance, democracy, human rights and to improve and increase efficiency in international mechanisms by strengthening the UN.

In its foreign policy, Romania is attaching special importance to the current global issues. Romania is actively involved in the efforts of the world community to find out solutions and is responsibly carrying out the domestic measures it has pledged to.

### **Sustainable development and environmental protection**

By adopting the Millennium Declaration, the UN member states have established clear-cut targets in the field of sustainable development, known as the objectives of the new millennium, scheduled to be achieved before 2015. Included among these objectives are bringing to half the current number of people living in extreme poverty as well as of the hunger-stricken people, securing access to primary education for people of both sexes, reducing child mortality rates, reducing the spread of epidemics, especially of malaria and AIDS, creating a partnership for development oriented toward assistance, international trade and easing the foreign debt burden.

At the same time, the Millennium Summit was the starting point of multilateral initiatives focused on getting concrete results. The most important such multilateral initiatives to economic and social development include the UN International Conference on Financing Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Romania is attaching special importance to solving the issues relating to sustainable development, with special emphasis on bridging the gaps between South and North, equitable distribution of the benefits of globalisation, eradicating poverty, modifying the existing production and consumption patterns, increasing energy efficiency as well as developing in time alternative energy sources to secure smooth transition when the reserves of hydrocarbons are exhausted. Romania's interest was reflected, among other, in active participation in international meetings on these problems, in bold pledges taken on such occasions, in the achievements recorded in carrying out the measures it established for itself to help the objectives of the new millennium be reached, as well as in the efforts to draw up its own sustainable development strategy in connection with sustainable development at a global level.

As far as environmental protection is concerned, Romania's involvement in the world efforts is constant and intense, tightly linked to the sustainable development desideratum.

### **International peace and security**

The issues related to international peace and security have undergone deep changes after 1990 compared with the time of the Cold War, requiring new approaches and solutions that entail strengthening the mechanisms of international bodies and the capabilities of the world community to meet threats rapidly and efficiently. Rarely used before concepts became widely circulated today, including conflict prevention operations, peace resuming and peace keeping, post conflict rehabilitation as well as peace building.

Romania acknowledges the right and obligation of the world community to intervene when there are serious human rights breaches and imminent threats against international security and use the responsibility to prevent, the responsibility to react as well as the responsibility to rebuild to this end. Romania equally acknowledges the need for clear-cut criteria to be worded at an international level that will define the limits within which international involvement may be seen as legitimate, so that arbitrary action may be avoided.

### **Fight against terrorism**

The issue of terrorism, which no long ago was generally dealt with from case to case, has become a really global theme after the events on September 11, 2001. In the past decades, the terrorist groups were usually concentrated locally, had well-defined objectives, and most of the time, they benefited from financial and logistic support granted by some states. By way of contrast, the today's terrorism is characterised by the global extension of terrorist organisations, due to the modern communication means and the mobility of financial resources, through vaguely defined objectives and by increasing the importance of the support granted by some private individuals, who are hard to identify. For the success of the fight against terrorism, the world's states have to work together to harmonise the perceptions of the meaning of terrorism and for the correct identification and counterattacking the terrorism's favouring factors.

Following the September 2001 events, Romania has engaged firmly in the fight of combating the terrorist threats, both by participating in the efforts of the international community and by taking domestic measures. The principle stand, voiced constantly by Romanian authorities, was the rejection of terrorism as a means of promoting political objectives in the international relations, or some domestic claims in different states.

In this sense, Romania has proved unconditional support for the UN efforts of preventing and combating terrorism, by adopting in an emergency regime a series of normative acts regarding the implementation in the domestic legislation of the relevant UN resolutions. Romania's Government has adopted the Emergency Ordinance 153 / 2001 for the enactment of the Resolution 1373 / 2001 of the UN Security Council on combating international terrorism, and the Emergency Ordinance 159 / 2001 for preventing and combating the use of the financial-banking system for financing terror acts.

Moreover, the Interministerial Council for supervising the enforcement of the UN's 1373 Resolution was set up. This Council is answerable to the Foreign Ministry and presents periodically reports to the Government.

### **The non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons**

Purchasing and owning weapons of mass destruction - either nuclear, biological or chemical ones - by terrorist entities represent today one of the most important threats and challenges at the address of the international community's security. There is also the risk that some states use or threaten to use weapons of mass destruction for blackmail or intimidation.

By recognising the need for an intense cooperation at international level for preventing the terrorist groups or the states that endorse terrorism from acquiring weapons of mass destruction or components, Romania firmly backs the strict observance of the relevant international documents, and also perfecting them or broadening the coverage sphere, including by the implementation of anti-proliferation measures - where is the case.

Romania considers as priority the development - by joint international efforts - of a culture for the non-proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction, based on the desiderate of an active diplomacy focused against proliferation.

In this respect, EU Strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is the framework-document for regional european efforts to combat uncontrolled proliferation of WMD.